

Thomas Russell Junior School

'Ambitious culture, strong team ethos, outstanding academic achievement, high expectations, exemplary behaviour' Ofsted 2019.



Newsletter



Issue No. 4

Headteacher: Mrs S Sharpe

25th September 2020

So ... in the week that saw us pass the 6 month mark since we first went in to Lockdown, we have received another update from the Government to inform us that measures are tightening again this week and may well be in place for 6 months. You will find with this newsletter some documents which we have been asked to circulate to all parents / carers.

I'd like to formally note my immense gratitude to all of the teachers, teaching assistants and support staff at Thomas Russell Junior who have worked wonders implementing all of the changes in the classroom and around school, to ensure your children are kept as safe as possible. We are all delighted to be back ☺ and I think children and parents feel the same.

Pleasingly, we seem to be over the worst of the coughs and colds that spread quickly as we all got back together. We've seen attendance pick up to 98% again which is fabulous.

We've had our first whole school Zoom assembly today and it was just **brilliant** to be able to see all of the children together again. Some very special Merit Awards were given and obviously we had to finish with 'Power in Me' playing out around the school. A marvellous end to another super week ☺

Regular handwashing and good ventilation are vital factors in our planning to keep school as safe as we can. This means that we have doors and windows propped open at all times. Classroom temperatures will therefore be lower than usual, particularly as the weather gets colder, so please feel free to add tights, base layers or thermals underneath school uniform to ensure children are comfortable whilst sitting still at their desk.

Parent Consultations

We hold Parent Consultations termly to help keep parents informed about how children are progressing at school. This half term, due to restrictions, we will be offering meetings via Zoom. As you will know, children are in 2 named classes, but we split into 3 mixed ability classes for morning lessons. Your meeting will be with the teacher who your child spends most of their time in school with. The focus of the consultation will be around your child's emotional well-being, how they have settled back in to school, general behaviour, friendships and relationships, personal organisation etc. as well as being an opportunity to discuss any matters from home that you might wish to raise.

Consultations will take place on Tuesday 20th and Thursday 22nd October, between 4pm and 7pm. We would prefer if possible that children are not present during these ten minute meetings. Parents are welcome to log on from the same location and share a screen or log on from two different locations if that is more convenient.

Next week we will send you a website link and booking code, along with clarifying the name of the teacher that your child spends most of their time in school with.

Individual and TRJS Sibling photos

Please don't forget Individual photos take place on Monday 5th October. We would like all children in school uniform, so please can Y4 wear sports kit on Tuesday that week instead.

Register for sibling photographs via this link:

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=SzY8xE79bkWXpBSkxP4ktoM1cBYCQVpLrpPby5jTYoFUMkdPM0pFOEVPR0FBQ0IzN0pFVzE3WEEdMTy4u>

Gentle reminders

We have a few little notes for those new to school, but also for parents whose children do a wonderful job of convincing them that the rules have changed and "everyone does it"!



Snacks - we always encourage children to eat a healthy snack at break time, even more so now with some children not having dinner until 12:50. Fruit, vegetable sticks, healthy cereal / snack bars, yogurt, cheese, rice cakes or breadsticks are all great. We would prefer children didn't eat crisps and chocolate bars. If your child has these items in their sandwich box, please ensure they know which is their healthy option for break time. There can be a lot of hidden sugar and salt in snacks marketed at children, and whilst we will not refuse them permission to eat anything parents send, we really appreciate your support in this area.

Hair - we ask that all children with hair that is long enough to tie up, wear it up every day whilst at school. This is for hygiene and safety reasons as well as allowing children to properly concentrate on their learning. If hair is not long enough to be completely tied back, then we encourage long / floppy fringes to be secured back off children's faces so they can look between their books and the teacher / whiteboard with ease. Any hair longer than shoulder length should ideally be tied completely back please.



Coats - to accommodate current Covid requirements regarding handwashing, separate bubbles and lunchtime arrangements, we have extended both our morning and afternoon playtimes to 30 minutes. It is therefore essential that children have a waterproof coat (ideally with a hood) in school every day. We will go out to play in most weathers, and even in just light rain, they can get quite wet in 30 minutes. Those without hoods might consider sending a hat please.

This weekend is our busiest birthday weekend of the year! I hope the children all have fun celebrating even though parties at the moment aren't quite the same.

Happy Birthday to Rafe M, Freddie B, Laura G, Owen P, Arthur G, Tom B, Arthur N and William T-W ☺



Best wishes, Mrs Sharpe